

*Welcome to the
Bergthaler Mennonite Church
of Altona*



Sunday, December 27, 2020

Worship Service

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

'Christmas Day' Celebration

December 27, 2020

*"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of
a messenger, who proclaims peace, who brings good news,
who proclaims salvation,"*

~ Isaiah 52: 7 a-b

Opening Song	Oh, how joyfully / O du froehliche
Welcome	
Call to Worship and Prayer	
Song	Hark, the herald angels sing
Children's Story	
Song	Baby Boy
Scripture	Isaiah 52: 7-10
Meditation	'Go tell it on the mountain'
Song	To us a Child of hope is born
Prayer	
Benediction	
Song	Go tell it on the mountain

Sermon: Josh Janzen

Worship Leader: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Children's Story: Amanda Wiens

Music: Recorded Artists

Our worship service will be available on the church website
Sunday morning [abchurchcommunity.ca] at 10:30 a.m.

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Helen Schulz, Anne Braun, Hilda Wiebe, Elizabeth Doell, Waldo Schulz at Altona Health Centre; Anne Kehler at Notre Dame de Lourdes Hospital.
- ~ **Condolences to:**
 - ~ Anne Schellenberg and family at the passing away of brother in-law Arthur Epp of Winkler on Dec 16.
 - ~ Hugo & Helen Voth, Helen Voth, Willie Voth, families and extended family, at the passing away of sister/sister in-law Mary Klassen of Altona.
 - ~ Pete & Verna Heinrichs, family and extended family at the passing away of mother Anne Abrams of Altona
- ~ **Thank you** so much for the Christmas student care package you sent us. We are very much enjoying it and we are so thankful to have the support of the ABC church. We hope this Christmas can be special even amidst the challenges! Take care, Josh and Alyssa Neufeld
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada:** As many of us here in Canada celebrate Christmas distanced from family, pray for International Witness workers and their families as they celebrate, while also distanced. Several of the workers have given up scheduled trips back to Canada to see family in the last year in order to keep working in their country of ministry. Pray that we all experience God's promise of Emmanuel.

Donations for the church can be dropped off at Don and Grace Fehr's home at **85 Martin Crescent**. Place your donation in the designated box and then ring the doorbell. PLEASE NOTE THEIR NEW ADDRESS, and don't leave your donation at Don and Grace's former residence.

YEAR-END donations: Deadline date for year-end donations is **12 noon on Dec 31**. Any donations received after 12 noon will be receipted for 2021. Year end donations can be dropped off at the treasurer's home (see above); as well, Susan will be at the Church Office on December 29, 30, and 31 (9am-noon and 1-3pm) and you may bring your donations to the church. Ring the South Ed Wing doorbell and Susan will meet you at the door.

2021 Donation Envelopes can be picked up from the church. Ring the doorbell and Susan will meet you at the door.

WORSHIP CALENDAR:

- Dec 27 - Christmas Celebration Service - Isaiah 52: 7-10
- Jan 3 - Guest Speaker George Veith

FROM the PASTOR: Amanda Wiens

We are now only a few days away from signing off on 2020 and this time of year always leaves me assessing what was and looking forward to what's to come, and I'm hopeful. I'm well aware that we are not living in Walt Disney's fantasy world, when the clock strikes midnight on December 31st our lives will not go back to "normal", but I'm still hopeful. I'm hopeful that 2020 has taught us a few things so we will be better prepared for whatever life brings in 2021.

Here are a few lessons I've learned, perhaps you can relate:

- I've learnt that laughter is a great gift.
- I've learnt the art of sitting, just sitting.
- I've learnt to truly appreciate the smell of freshly brewed coffee, the feel of a book in my hands and the warmth of a new pair of socks.
- I've learnt that my kids really do enjoy each other's company, they just have a funny and sometimes frustrating way of showing it.
- I've learnt what a huge difference there is between being alone and being lonely.
- I've learnt how valuable a quick text, email or phone call, a card or picture sent in the mail or left on a doorstep and a sincere "how are you?" is in combating loneliness.
- I've learnt that there are things, big things, that affect my family that I have no control over. Things I cannot fix on my own.

This last one is a hard one for me. I'm a doer and a fixer, give me some time and I will formulate a plan to make things right. This past year I have learnt the art of sitting with the discomfort and I'm learning to give up the control and trust that God has it covered.

So, with all that I've learnt this past year I'm ready to step into a New Year hopeful because God is in control.

Wishing you a Happy New Year with God in the lead.

Jr & Sr Youth

- Merry Christmas!

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona 117 2ND Street NW Altona, MB R0G 0B1
Web Page Address: abchurchcommunity.ca Office: 324-6717 E-mail: office@abchurch.ca
Worship Services available online at: abchurch.libsyn.com Facebook: ABC community
Lead Pastor: Mark Tiessen-Dyck, 324-5990 cell 1-204-771-3406 marktd@abchurch.ca
Assoc Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, cell 304-6119 virginiagr@abchurch.ca
Assoc Pastor of Youth Min: Josh Janzen, 204-502-1991, cell 1-402-631-3481 joshj@abchurch.ca
Children's Ministry Coordinator: Amanda Wiens, 324-6719 amandaw@abchurch.ca

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Personnel Commission** is pleased to share the following staff changes for ABC. Jolene Friesen-Stoesz and Cheryl Harder will job share the custodian position. Amanda Wiens will act as a substitute secretary during Susan's time off. We are excited to welcome Cheryl and Jolene to the ABC staff and equally as excited to have Amanda in this added role.
- **Thank you** to Eva Schroeder who has served as substitute for the Church office secretary for many years. She retires from this position at the end of 2020. Eva your service was valued and appreciated!
- **Christmas Vacations and Church Office hours:**
Pastor Mark will on vacation from Dec 21 to Dec 28.
Pastor Virginia will be on vacation from Dec 28 to Jan 4.
Pastor Josh will be off on Dec 24 & 25 and Jan 1.
The Church office will be closed December 25 – 28 and January 1.
- **Commission Chairs:** reminder to submit your reports for the Annual Report Book to Susan at the Church Office.
- **We consider** reading and books to be essential. If you would like to access the church library and sign out books, you may call the church office to arrange a time. We ask that you wear a mask and hand sanitize when visiting the library.
- **The Mitten Tree Project** is happening. New or home knit mittens, toques and scarves collected through the **Mitten Tree project** will be donated to Union Gospel Mission in Winnipeg. All donated items are greatly appreciated and much needed at UGM. To donate your items, call Amanda Wiens 204-324-6719 to arrange drop-off or pick-up.
- **The pastors** are working from home during critical code red. You are welcome to be in touch by phone or email. Susan will be in the office so you are also welcome to call the church. The facility will be closed to visitors during the critical code red period.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Canadian Mennonite University – cmu.ca

- *Through this Place* is a monthly e-newsletter 'inside, outside and all about CMU'. To subscribe visit www.cmu.ca/newsletter.

Mennonite Disaster Service - ecomunications@mds.mennonite.net

- In the December edition of *On the Level* from MDS we offer a timely prayer for 2020, A Prayer Amidst Disaster, written by an MDS staff member. Also be sure to save the date for our virtual MDS Annual Celebration. Click this link: <https://conta.cc/37n9EGS>

Mennonite Church Manitoba – mnochurch.mb.ca 204-896-1616

- MCM invites applications for: Financial Services Assistant (.75 FTE) and Administrative Assistant (0.5 FTE) to start ca. Feb 1, 2021. These job descriptions are posted on the Mennonite Church Manitoba website. Please submit application letter and resume, by Jan 10, 2021 to Peter Rempel, Interim Administrator, at office@mnochurch.mb.ca .